

*Memorial entrance gate
Riverview Cemetery, Groveland*



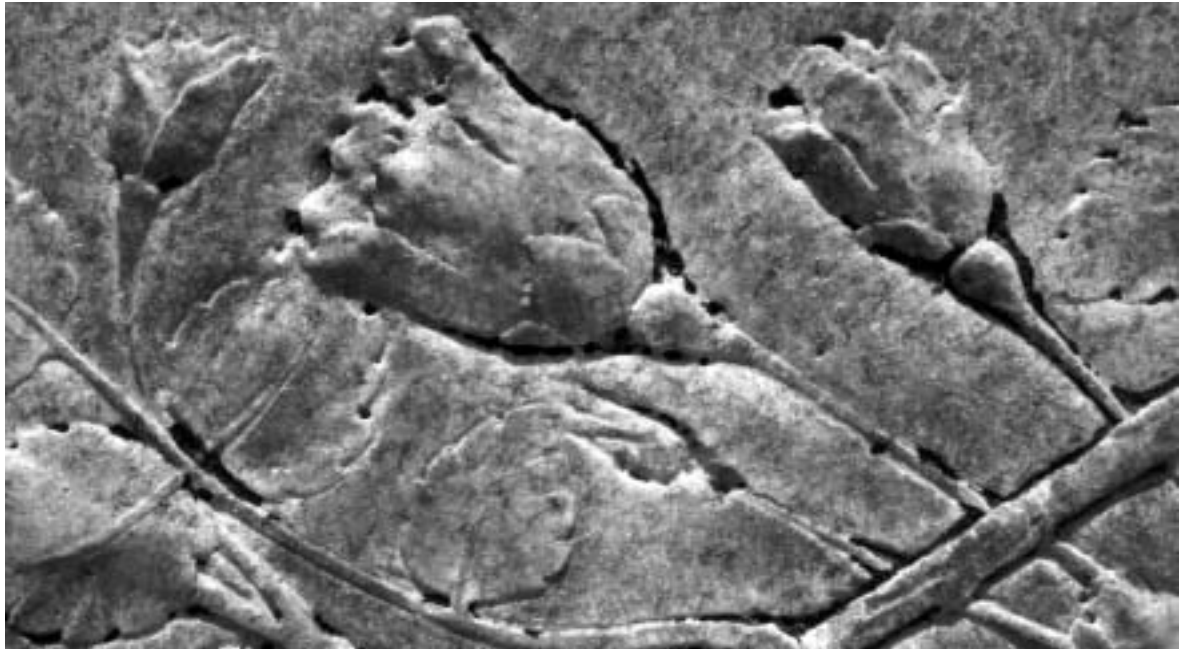
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*Stone carving detail,
Cambridge*



INTRODUCTION

SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORIC BURIAL GROUNDS AND CEMETERIES

The historic burial grounds and cemeteries of Massachusetts are vital elements of the Commonwealth's cultural heritage. They are often the oldest surviving remnants from the early years of a community and represent important social, historic, architectural and archeological artifacts. In addition to their historic value, many of these significant cultural landscapes must also meet contemporary needs.

Burial grounds and cemeteries are important public spaces with a vital link to the past. These sites tell a story of evolving burial and mourning practices, from the bleak Puritan graveyards to the richly ornamented rural cemeteries of the 19th century. When little else may remain intact from the beginnings of a city or town, the burial ground with its stone walls, mature trees and dirt paths can often evoke the early history of a community. As open space becomes more and more scarce and undeveloped land is increasingly used for other purposes, burial grounds and cemeteries remain places for solitude, contemplation and reflection.

These properties are considered not only public open space and areas of respite, but also outdoor museums. Unlike traditional museums, these sites present a permanent collection of rare three dimensional artifacts, some of which have remained in place more than 300 years. These historic artifacts are a finite and deteriorating resource that need preservation and protection from damage by weathering, vegetation and vandalism, as well as deferred and inappropriate maintenance practices.

The gravestones, monuments, memorials and tombs found within the cemetery landscape commemorate the lives of many generations of citizens, from founding members of a community and the state to Revolutionary and Civil War heroes to the newest immigrants. These important artifacts are a unique historic and genealogical record, sometimes representing the only source of the history of an entire town. Some of these stone carvings represent some of the earliest art and written history available in the United States. Many also reflect an important artistic legacy, displaying the work of a long tradition of skilled stone carvers and documenting the evolution of funereal iconography.

Each site needs to be dealt with in a coherent way that recognizes its historic importance, contemporary interpretive purpose and passive public use.

*The cemetery as part of everyday life
in early America*



2 - Introduction

THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORIC CEMETERIES PRESERVATION INITIATIVE

The Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program [HLPGP] is a state funded competitive grant program established in 1997 to support preservation and restoration of publicly owned landscapes listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In the course of its first three grant rounds, the HLPGP received numerous proposals addressing critical preservation and stabilization needs at historic municipally owned cemeteries and burial grounds. The majority of these proposals came from smaller, rural towns where burial grounds and cemeteries may represent the most significant and/or only historic landscape owned by the municipality. In response to this need, the Department of Environmental Management [DEM] set aside funds from the FY 1999 and FY 2000 Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program to initiate a year long Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative. Because of the interest generated by the first year's efforts, the DEM expanded the program in FY 2001 to include additional properties across the state. This project has been managed by DEM's Office of Historic Resources in collaboration with the Massachusetts Historical Commission [MHC].

The Massachusetts Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative has begun to address the pressing needs of municipal cemeteries and burial grounds. It has taken important steps to document, evaluate and make preservation recommendations for 32 burial grounds and cemeteries in 29 communities across the state, as well as providing training, technical assistance and preservation guidelines that are applicable to other historic municipal burial grounds and cemeteries.

As a group, and sometimes individually, these sites illustrate important developments in the evolution of graveyard design ranging from domestic homestead graveyards, to churchyard burial grounds, to public graveyards, to rural cemeteries, to lawn park cemeteries. The range of landscape expression of these graveyard types also portrays evolving societal attitudes toward death and immortality.

Municipal burial grounds and cemeteries are often among the oldest and most significant graveyards in a community, frequently containing the graves of the earliest inhabitants. As public properties, historic cemeteries and burial grounds present many unique preservation challenges, including damaged and vandalized headstones, deterioration of older walks and enclosures, and aging and hazardous trees.

Inactive sites [closed to further burials] and active sites face different challenges. The majority of the sites examined are inactive. Because they are no longer in active use and not generating revenue, inactive cemeteries must compete with other municipal priorities for funding. Resources for basic maintenance are almost always scarce, while funds for capital repairs are virtually nonexistent. Municipal cemetery managers often lack the specialized technical skills to resolve structural and conservation problems and face difficult decisions regarding priority setting.

Once a burying ground or cemetery is closed it can quickly turn from a community asset into a liability. When a property like this stops generating an income and serving a recognized civic purpose, it only creates expenses, and often there is no one to maintain or watch over it. This leads to abandonment and further neglect.

Despite these pressing needs, few historic burial grounds or cemeteries have conditions assessments, inventories, master plans or preservation maintenance plans to guide their management or care. While there is some excellent material prepared by advocacy organizations and municipalities, primarily related to headstones, there is very little easily accessible written information focusing on the overall care of this historic landscape type, and, in particular, balancing the needs of competing resources such as trees and burial markers.

Finally, even where adequate preservation planning has been done, few burial grounds and cemeteries have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or have been determined eligible for listing. This precludes them from receiving construction funds from programs such as DEM's Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program, or MHC's Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund [MPPF].

PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE PRESERVATION GUIDELINES

These guidelines offer a compendium of information directly related to the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, management and care of the Commonwealth's municipally owned historic burial grounds and cemeteries.

Specific goals of the guidelines include:

- Restoration and rehabilitation of these historic resources in a contemporary context,
- Reinforcement of an overall image compatible with the historic assets of these properties,
- Improvement of accessibility, and
- Increasing passive recreation and educational opportunities.

The individual preservation master plans and implementation plans included in the Case Studies portion of this report can also serve as models for both long and short term planning and improvements at other historic burial grounds and cemeteries.



Obelisk detail, Chocksett Cemetery, Sterling

ORGANIZATION OF THE DOCUMENT

This document begins with general information on the historic background of burial ground and cemetery development in Massachusetts. This is followed by guidelines for preservation planning which include site documentation, condition assessment, evaluation of significance and integrity and priority setting.

General recommendations are provided next for historic burial ground and cemetery components, with a brief discussion of why certain recommendations are made and how to accomplish them. Recommendations related to issues of administrative management follow. References are made to the individual case studies in these two sections where they serve as examples of the issue being discussed.

Case studies or site specific assessments and prioritized recommendations are included for each of the properties examined in this program. While the assessments should not be considered to be in depth, they are sufficient to offer basic guidance to each community. The site plans have been developed to a concept level. Locations of specific elements on most of the plans are approximate and based upon assessors maps with field observations. Few communities have detailed topographic surveys which are necessary to implement many types of improvements.

Organized by date of establishment, the sites include:

First Burial Ground, Woburn [1642]
Vine Lake Cemetery, Medfield [1651]*
East Parish Burial Ground, Newton [1660]
Spring Hill Cemetery, Marlborough [c1660]
Riverside Cemetery, Sunderland [1714]*
Prospect Hill Cemetery, Millis [c1714]*
Elm Street Cemetery, Braintree [1716]
Walnut Street Cemetery, Brookline [1717]
Center Cemetery, Brimfield [1720]*
Old Burying Grounds, Littleton [1721]
Old Burial Ground, East Bridgewater [c1724]
Old Parish Burying Ground, Rockport [c1732]
Corbin Cemetery, Dudley [c1735]*
Chocksett Cemetery, Sterling [1736]
Old Burial Ground, Sturbridge [c1740]
Old Cemetery, Spencer [1742]
Center Cemetery, Douglas [c1746]*
New Marlborough Cemetery,
 New Marlborough [1755]*
Pope Cemetery, Peabody [1755]
High Street Cemetery, Danvers [1758]
Village Cemetery, Tisbury [c1770]
Center and Ringville Cemeteries, Worthington
 [c1770]*
Oak Ridge Cemetery, Southbridge [1801]*
Roxanna C. Mye, Pocknett and William Jones
 Burial Grounds, Mashpee [c1800s]
Riverside Cemetery, North Chelmsford [c1841]
Greenlawn Cemetery, Nahant [1858]*
Northampton State Hospital Burial Ground,
 Northampton [1858]
Glenwood Cemetery, Maynard [1871]*
Glenwood Cemetery, Everett [1890]*

** Indicates sites that remain active*

The appendices contain information on grave marker inventory and a selected bibliography for further reading.

Cemetery in a rural area

"While the old places of sepulture are usually unattractive save to the antiquary and those curious in old epitaphs, nothing is more characteristic of New England."

Francis Drake, 1878



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ON BURIAL GROUND AND CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS

The burial grounds and cemeteries of Massachusetts are one of the richest cultural and historic records of our past. In addition to providing specific genealogical information about our ancestors, they also tell a broader story about evolving attitudes towards death, burial and public landscapes. However, this significant cultural legacy is often a subtle and fragile message that is not well documented or understood.

The diversity in the character of the historic burying grounds and cemeteries across the Commonwealth reflects the unique and identifiable quality special to each community. There is a significant difference between the sterile plainness of the old graveyards and the beautiful grounds and flowers of the charming Victorian cemeteries that followed. Sketches and etchings of the early 1800s tend to show burying grounds in a much more barren condition than photographs from the 1850s through the turn of the century. These later photographs illustrate the Victorian influence with more decorative elements and heavier, more mature plantings.

Puritan Graveyards

The 17th century Puritan graveyards of Massachusetts were literally boneyards, simply a place of burial and often located on infertile or leftover land considered undesirable for other uses. They reflected the general austerity and difficulty of life during this period and were intentionally unwelcoming as Puritans wanted as little as possible to do with the place of the dead.

The earliest graveyards might house the graves of an extended family or a small community but typically had only a few graves, which often faced west towards the setting sun, but were otherwise laid out with little formal organization. The overall appearance was barren, with rough, uneven topography from frequent digging, poor grass cover, few trees or other plants and no attempt at embellishment. Pathways were few because space was at a premium. Because many of the early grave markers were not permanent, older graves were frequently disturbed by subsequent burials. Many graveyards began as pastures and continued as such after being developed as burying grounds, adding to the unkempt appearance. Few graveyards were carefully tended.

As towns grew beyond a few families, they began to establish municipal burial grounds. Some were located adjacent to meetinghouses or on commons, while others were situated in more isolated locations.

Small old burial ground



6 - Historic Background

Most of the sites examined in this program were opened as public burial sites, owned and operated by the municipal authorities of the time. A few began as family burial grounds [Mashpee, Peabody], others as church yard grounds [Douglas, Braintree].

Over time, burial markers became more permanent, with a growing tradition of slate carving by skilled artisans like Joseph Lamson, James Foster and Henry Christian Geyer. These early grave markers represent some of America's first public art. Markers during this period were usually portal shaped, with images of winged skulls and hourglasses. Inscriptions typically read "Here lies the body of ...," reflecting the Puritan rejection of bodily resurrection.

Unitarian Burial Grounds

Towards the end of the 18th century, ideas about death and burial began to change as Unitarianism replaced rigid Puritan beliefs. Attitudes towards death and the afterlife became more ambivalent, reflecting a cautious optimism that became evident in the burial grounds of New England. Burials no longer faced west but were oriented east towards the rising sun. Gravestones remained mostly slate but the iconography changed to reflect the new optimism. Winged cherubs and angels offered more positive images and were soon supplemented by urns, willows and other symbols of hope. Inscriptions took on a different tone as well. "Dedicated to the memory of ..." implied a permanent legacy, even though the body was departed.

Burial grounds, by this time much larger than they were a century earlier, began to reflect the general orderliness that was valued in New England during the Federal period. They were no longer fields with a few scattered graves but contained rows of headstones, and sometimes footstones. The landscape remained rough and unadorned although the burial ground might have been enclosed by a fieldstone wall or wooden fence, particularly if it was used as pasture. There would have been little if any ornamental planting.

An early 19th century New England writer wrote:

"the burying place continues to be the most neglected spot in all the region, distinguished from other fields only by its leaning stones and the meanness of its enclosures, without a tree or shrub to take from it the air of utter desolation."

The Rural Cemetery Movement

By the beginning of the 19th century, the population of Massachusetts had increased dramatically. The increased urbanization fouled the air and water of urban areas with a resultant rise in epidemics like Small Pox, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Yellow Fever, Whooping Cough, Measles and Asiatic Cholera that caused high death rates.

In 1822 Boston's burial grounds were in such a deplorable state that Mayor Josiah Quincy proposed to ban interments within the city limits. Existing urban burial grounds were in a deplorable state because of vandalism, abandonment and shuffling of locations. The burial grounds were seriously overcrowded with no space available for burials. It was believed that burial grounds were contaminating the water supply and that gases emanating from graves threatened public health. The 1830s and 1840s witnessed the closure of many of the nation's urban burial grounds because of neglect, abandonment and desecration.

The overcrowding and unhealthy conditions of urban burial grounds and city churchyards led to the perceived need to remove burial grounds from urban centers. While Boston's problems were very dramatic, these issues were also reflected in other large cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth, prompting a new approach to the design of burial grounds called the rural cemetery movement. Improvements in transportation made it possible to establish cemeteries in areas remote from crowded living conditions. These locations provided assurance that the dead could be interred and their remains would not be disturbed. Prior to that the dead were exhumed to make room for others in the tight confines of urban burial grounds or churchyards.

The rural cemetery movement was influenced by two important precedents, New Haven's New Burying Ground and Pere Lachaise in Paris.



New Haven's New Burying Ground

New Haven's New Burying Ground, established in 1796, introduced the idea of a private nonsectarian burial ground free from church and municipal oversight. It was located far enough from the city so it would not be perceived as a public health risk and was laid out in a geometric grid with private family burial lots. It was an enclosed level field with pathways broad enough for carriages to pass and the area was planted with trees [Poplars and Willows]. The influence of this design, which influenced the form and style of burying grounds to follow, can be seen in plans for the cemeteries in Sunderland and Brimfield, Massachusetts.

The 1804 design of the new rural cemetery, Pere Lachaise in Paris, drew international acclaim. It too was located outside the city but unlike earlier precedents, it was deliberately laid out to reflect an Arcadian ideal, a landscape for mourning. The design borrowed elements from the English romantic landscape style of the period with formal and informal design elements. It was a picturesque commemorative landscape with paths separated from carriageways. The cemetery was unified by a curving drive that led visitors past the classical monuments and offered a sequence of carefully constructed views.

By the 1830s the three major cities in the United States [Boston, New York and Philadelphia] had established large cemeteries on sites carefully chosen for accessibility and natural beauty.



Pere Lachaise Cemetery, Paris

Mount Auburn Cemetery and Pere Lachaise were created with a similar design intent and landscape aesthetic. But the two sites developed with very different results. Pere Lachaise became built up and congested with monuments and the French landscape expression of man's dominance over nature. It became a classic representation of mourning. At Mount Auburn, natural expression dominated and came to represent a calming sense of hope and expectation in the hereafter. It has retained the careful balance of art and nature intended by its founders.

The rural cemetery movement brought a new aesthetic to the design of other cemetery landscapes. Varied topography was desirable to create a landscape of complexity and visual interest. Broad vistas and picturesque landscapes were introduced to offer a view of the sublime in nature. Roads were circuitous and laid out to create a series of views as visitors moved through the landscape. Unlike earlier burial grounds, rural cemeteries were heavily planted. Some, like Mount Auburn, were even conceived of as arboretums. Enclosed vegetated spaces were provided for contemplation.

This new type of cemetery experience changed the public perception of burial grounds to such an extent that during the 1840s and 1850s tours of cemeteries became popular. For many these fashionable excursions combined pleasure with duty.

There was an important change in nomenclature as well. The older term "burial ground" was gradually replaced by the term "cemetery" which came from the Latin "to sleep." Even the names of the rural cemeteries [Greenlawn, Harmony Grove, Hope and Forest Hills] evoked their new ideals as places of consolation and inspiration.



From these two early precedents and the specific issues arising out of Boston's burial reform came Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, established by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1831. Key principles of Mount Auburn were that it was located outside the city, it was a place of permanent burial in family lots and it was nondenominational. It was the first American cemetery intended to emulate the romantic character of estate design and was widely imitated in the years that followed.

Detail of Statue, Pere Lachaise Cemetery, Paris

Chronologic Development of Selected
"Rural" Cemeteries in Massachusetts

- 1831 Mount Auburn Cemetery,
Cambridge
- 1837 Rural Cemetery, New Bedford
- 1838 Rural Cemetery, Worcester
- 1839 Blue Hill Cemetery, Braintree
- 1840 Harmony Grove, Salem
- 1841 Garden Cemetery, Chelsea
Rural Cemetery, Lowell
Springfield Cemetery, Springfield
- 1842 Oak Hill, Newburyport
- 1848 Forest Hills, Jamaica Plain
Mount Feake, Waltham
- 1850 Evergreen Cemetery, Brighton
Pine Grove, Lynn
Rural Cemetery, Pittsfield
- 1851 Woodlawn Cemetery, Chelsea
[now Everett]
Wildwood, Winchester
- 1852 Mount Hope Cemetery, Mattapan
- 1853 Oak Grove, Fall River
- 1855 Newton Cemetery, Newton
Sleepy Hollow, Concord



Mount Auburn Cemetery, Forest Pond, 1845 engraving

Central to the concept of the rural cemetery was the idea of family lots where family members could be buried together in perpetuity. Absorbed in the world of the dead, Victorians lavished family plots with embellishment as an outward recognition of their sorrow. Lots were often edged with stone and/or defined by ornate iron fences or hedges. A large central family monument often supplanted individual grave markers. Families often took pleasure in maintaining their lots, which sometimes had furnishings for visitors.

Grave marker and memorial iconography and materials changed dramatically during the 19th century. Urns, willows and other symbols of solace gradually replaced earlier images. Upright slabs remained popular but there was growing use of three dimensional monuments. Classical symbols, particularly obelisks and columns, were popular early in the century. Iconography became less abstract and more sentimental, with figures like lambs and cherubs used for graves of children.

Monuments of the wealthy sometimes reflected aspects of a person's life or career. Affluent families constructed tombs or mausoleums, often into a hillside.

Many cemeteries also built receiving tombs to house the bodies of those who died during the winter months until the ground was soft enough to dig. Hearse houses also became popular during the 19th century, as many cities and towns were now so large that the deceased could no longer be carried from their houses to the cemetery.

Slate and sandstone markers were replaced with marble markers, granite obelisks and replicated statues. The whiteness of the marble markers was less somber than the earlier dark slate and more appropriate for positive feelings about the hereafter. While marble was comparatively easy to carve, its disadvantages became apparent over time. It was not as permanent and carvings began to erode. Improved quarrying technology made granite more readily available towards the end of the 19th century and it soon replaced marble as the preferred stone for grave markers.

Influences of the Rural Cemetery Movement

Although many of the burial grounds of Massachusetts, including most of those examined in the Historic Cemeteries Preservation Initiative, were established prior to the rural cemetery movement, the influence of these new ideas was widely felt throughout the Commonwealth. Burial grounds were no longer considered desolate places to be avoided but places of solace to the living as well as permanent resting places for the dead. Many cemeteries developed after the 1830's integrated some aspects of the rural cemetery movement into their design. This new generation of cemeteries featured curvilinear roads and paths, rustic ponds, extensive plantings and more ornate architectural features. Some were laid out by the growing number of surveyors, gardeners and landscape architects who specialized in design of rural estates and cemeteries.

Many of the Commonwealth's older burial grounds were also upgraded during the 19th century, giving them a more park like appearance. While many of the gravestones are older, the romantic image of a tree covered Colonial burial ground is largely a 19th century phenomenon. Municipal records indicate that fencing, tree planting and other improvements were common during this period. One of the most dramatic changes was the addition of vegetation as a normal part of the cemetery landscape. Trees were added to all of Boston's existing burial grounds within 15 years of the founding of Mount Auburn Cemetery. Decorative Victorian embellishments, including fencing, was another common addition to older burial grounds. Elaborate entry gates were often added, representing earthly gates to paradise.

Lawn-Park Cemeteries and Memorial Parks

After the Civil War, public interest focused less on cemeteries because newly established large parks provided better opportunities for recreation. There were also changing attitudes about the earlier emphasis on death. Evolving technology, most noticeably the advent of the lawnmower and vastly improved granite cutting techniques, were also strong influences.

The Lawn-Park cemetery image, exemplified by Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio, was influenced by the late 19th century City Beautiful movement and attempted to balance formalism with naturalism. Family monuments set in large lawn areas replaced individual markers. The clutter of the individually enclosed family lots was replaced with a more unified, park like landscape. Few clusters of trees or shrubs interrupted the expanses of lawn.

As the Lawn-Park style became more popular, the fences and hedges began to disappear in many older cemeteries as well, due partially to the difficulty of maintaining the enclosures and mowing around them and partially for aesthetic reasons. These elements, in very close proximity with each other, competed visually to the detriment of the broader cemetery experience.

Another late 19th century trend was an increase in the number of cemeteries associated with particular religious or ethnic groups, particularly in industrial cities. As the population of Massachusetts became more diverse, many groups chose to establish their own cemeteries, often retaining distinctive features from their own culture.

Other groups acquired sections in municipal cemeteries where they could be buried together in a cemetery 'neighborhood' that would include those with whom they had lived. During the latter part of the 19th century, many municipal burial grounds assumed a commemorative and patriotic function, serving as the location of civic monuments and gatherings like Memorial Day ceremonies.

By the early 20th century, cemeteries became even more park like. The 1913 establishment of Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California took the Lawn-Park cemetery to a new dimension as the use of flush burial markers placed a greater emphasis on lawns and created a sense of spaciousness and unity, reducing visual distractions. Plantings became a backdrop for large artistic memorials that emphasized community rather than individual.

Some of the older cemeteries in Massachusetts adopted the new aesthetic of Forest Lawn for expansion areas. A prime example is Greenlawn Cemetery in Nahant where the sense of lawn and ocean view create an overall ambiance of tranquility and community. It is believed that the planned new municipal cemetery in Belmont will also be developed in a similar manner.

Since World War II many cemeteries favored efficiency of burial over aesthetic considerations. Uniform rows of straight plots, coupled with uniform or back to back placement of headstones of similar size and limited vegetative development, have left an impression of warehousing the dead.

Recent Trends

As reported in the Wall Street Journal, demand for burial space is growing across the nation. In 1996 there were 2.3 million deaths in the United States, 14% more than in 1986 according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Deaths are expected to increase to 2.7 million a year by 2007. Cemetery space shortages are particularly acute in the Northeast where large tracts of land in and around urban areas are difficult to find and very costly. Almost half of 49 cemeteries in a Boston area survey expect to run out of burial space within 10 years.

In more rural areas, where land is more available, less expensive and the demand for such space is less because of smaller populations, adequate burial space does not appear to be a significant current issue. Many smaller communities in rural areas have amassed sufficient land for burial purposes to serve them for many decades.

The development of cremation in the late 19th century provided an economical alternative to traditional interment under headstones. Although public acceptance has been slow, according to the Cremation Association of North America cremation accounted for 22% of dispositions in Massachusetts in 1998, up from 17% in 1993 and 4% in 1968. It has been projected that cremation will be chosen in almost 25% of deaths in Massachusetts by the year 2000, and that is projected to rise to 45% by 2010. However, other sources estimate that about 50% of cremains are not placed in a traditional manner like in columbaria, mausolea or family graves.

The potential impact of broader acceptance of cremations could be significant on landscape image and development. With less importance attached to individual vertical headstones, the landscape expression could again dominate over stone artifacts.

*Contemporary cemetery treatment,
Watertown*



Conclusions

Burial grounds and cemeteries in the Commonwealth offer a variety of visual impressions. Some, particularly the older, smaller burial grounds, present the image of a single period or short span of time. Others, particularly the larger sites, exhibit characteristics of several of the influences, styles or trends in cemetery development because they had sufficient space for them to endure and keep developing over a longer span of time.

For much of the 20th century, many historic burial grounds and cemeteries have suffered the adverse impacts of neglect. A number of factors influenced this plight of municipal cemeteries today. Perhaps the most important is the fact that once a site becomes full and inactive, it no longer generates income and no longer has or needs sales appeal. Many sites were essentially abandoned after the sale of all of the plots. The lack of sufficient endowment funds meant that there were no funds for maintenance and long term care.

Competing needs and low municipal budgets, coupled with increased labor costs, have generally placed the maintenance and preservation of historic burial grounds and cemeteries low on a municipality's priority list. Municipalities have many needs for the funds that they have available. Improvements in the tools and devices for maintenance over the last century have reduced, but not eliminated, labor requirements.

Sites that are taken care of tend to have high visibility and significance in the community. They are also often recognized as an important component of the local tourism industry. Recent broadened interest in the preservation of cultural landscapes has uncovered the wide ranging information and significance that these properties have to offer.

Afterword

The purpose of this historic overview is to provide a sense of the major trends in cemetery development, and allow readers to identify where a specific cemetery or part of a cemetery might fall in this spectrum. It is not intended to be a definitive history. There are several excellent contemporary publications on the historic development of burial grounds and cemeteries in the United States. Perhaps the most comprehensive is David Sloane's *The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History*. Others focus on specific periods of time like John Stilgoe's *Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845* and Blanche Linden-Ward's *Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery*.